The Field Museum

Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
September 29, 2000

Long-time volunteer Ed Yastrow named as Research Associate

Ed Yastrow joined The Field Museum as volunteer in 1986, working first under the supervision of Glen Cole and, since 1994, under Chap Kusimba's direction. Since joining the Museum Ed has been involved in a number of projects:

- He rewrote all labels for Hall C (Hall of Man) including general history and labels for individual artifacts and fossils.
- He served as research assistant for Dr. Cole and co-wrote sections of Glen's papers on Middle Stone Age Africa.
- He has planned, prepared, and presented several programs on Members' Night.
- He has served as lecturer on Field Museum trips to Africa. The most recent trip was with Bruce Patterson in which he distinguished himself as a unique student of African prehistory.
- He stripped cases (15) in Hall C when a decision was made to take it down. He re-described all the items removed and relocated in collections and provided all catalogue changes to the registrar.
- He serves as lecturer to various groups including area school children, friends of the museum, and an adult education class at Northwestern University.
- Ed has served as Chap Kusimba's assistant, colleague, and resource on the history of The Field Museum. He answers questions pertaining to human origins and follows current journals in African prehistory and archaeology. He also helps Sibel and Chap maintain an updated file on publications relating to hominoid and hominid evolution.
- For the next three years, Ed, Sibel, and Chap will be working on a number of electronic Field Trips on Africa.

Ed, a member of the Founders' Council, has contributed to the well-being of the Museum and the Anthropology Department in innumerable ways. And it seems to be a family affair! Ed's granddaughter, Madeleine Yastrow, volunteered in Invertebrates this summer. Madeleine's interest in invertebrates and fishes was started by spending time fishing with her grandfather.

Recognizing Ed's distinguished service to the Museum, Chap Kusimba nominated him to become a Research Associate of The Field Museum, a nomination which was unanimously supported by the curators of the Anthropology Department.

FIELD NOTES

Week of October 2

Staff/Volunteer Events

North Lot open for staff parking

Tae Bo Class
- Monday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor

Previews: Kachinas, Endurance
- Tuesday, 3 p.m., Main Floor

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday, 5 p.m. , Ground Floor
- Thursday, 5 p.m. , Ground Floor

Green Sheet Meeting
- Wednesday, 3 p.m., Special Events

Public/Campus Events

Star Wars: The Magic of Myth
- Exhibit continues

Americanos
- Exhibit continues

Bears Game
- Sunday afternoon

The Natural News is edited by Rodger Patience in the Development Department. Send news items, artwork, and photos to patience@fmnh.org.

The deadline for each week's issue is Wednesday at noon.

DOCKET

18 September 2000

Diane White

- Visitor Services staff in reprieve — only 25% more people this week than last year (adjusting for Unity Day, the increase is about 70%)
- *Star Wars* hitting mid-exhibition stride — shorter queues, Siragusa being reorganized for school groups
- Public Services Council (Matrix) met to discuss inter-departmental implications of Public Services activities

Gary Feinman and Gillian Darlow

- Collaborative project between Botany (Greg Mueller and Bil Alverson), the Morton Arboretum, and the Chicago Botanical Garden won a National Leadership Grant from IMLS worth $400,000
- New assistant curator in Zoology — Maureen Kearney studies Amphisbaenia, which are mostly legless, underground lizards
- Bill Stanley has returned from Tanzania, his work showing that almost every island there has its own endemic shrew

Mary Ellen Munley (for Cathleen Costello)

- Cheryl Bardoe generating a City Pass report
- PR suggesting celebrating the millionth *Underground Adventure* visitor with a radio campaign and free trip to the Grand Canyon
- During City-wide Museum Week, The Field offers two tickets for the price of one
- *Kremlin Gold* and *Endurance* artifacts arrived safely
- Considering an exhibition with the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2003
- Americas team visited the Adler to see the Pawnee sky show
- Sophia Shaw presented to the Women's Board, in preparation for their Kremlin Gold Ball
- The Sue cast at Disney—still under warranty—has serious problems to be fixed immediately
- Since Sue opened, store sales have doubled
- Education will be pilot testing the Monsanto Environmental Education Curriculum, including an e-field trip in the spring
- Stephen Jay Gould lecture drew about 800 people; beginning of a marketing initiative to learn who attends programs and how to serve them better
- "Racism Explained" symposium and "Fossil Collection at Mazon Creek" both successful
- Spin Pong donated to Al's Church
- French, German, and Japanese floor plans just printed

Bill Barnett

- E-branding — from now on emails sent from The Field will say from username@fieldmuseum.org
- Web reports online at http://intranet1/departments/webreports/default.htm
    - Sue is the most requested, then Planning Your Visit, then Exhibitions
- New top-level domains (.art, .sex, etc.) will go on sale in 2001
- Library purchasing an online public access catalog
- Discussing with Unext courses for business people on the scientific method

Don Cooke

- Proposal submitted to Mazza Foundation for educational programs

Jim Croft

- FY2001 attendance projection — 1.8 million
- Considering responsibility-centered budgeting to plan for new plateau of operations (rather than continued incremental budgeting of explosive growth period)
- If fourth quarter attendance is 20% higher than 1999, then attendance in 2000 will surpass 2.3 million, the King Tut record
- Currently 15,000 square feet of air shaft has been filled in and this HVAC challenge is being addressed
- Stanley Field Hall chandeliers will be fully reinstalled by the Women's Board Ball

Christina Breslow (for the Museum Campus)

- Trolleys now only on weekends
- Saturday, October 14 will be CTA appreciation day — 11,000 CTA employees invited

Fay Levin

- Holding an Elected Officials Appreciation Night to help create support for the Collections Resource Facility
- Illinois Humanities Council has sponsored *Endurance* programs (co-produced with Newberry Library) with a $13,000 grant

Marilyn Martinson

- Working on OSHA report in response to last year's complaint
- 170 staff attended the overnight — highlight: T. rex Boogie
- Summary annual reports as required by law are being sent nine months after the end of the fiscal year to all people who receive benefits
- Staff Holiday Fest will be 13 December
- Service Recognition — retirees will receive a Tiffany Clock
- Human resource directors from each cultural institution in Chicago are meeting

John McCarter

- Cathleen Costello is in Cairo negotiating the release of artifacts for Cleopatra
- Howard Tyner, Editor of the Tribune Publishing Company, brought the editors of each of the Tribune's newspapers to The Field for their first joint meeting — it was a brilliant success
- Kristina Thiel has completed the first phase of the Masks project — mailing white plaster masks and colorful paints to celebrities and Chicago VIPs. Once painted, authenticated, and returned, the masks will be auctioned.
- Boone family came in for lunch and tour — our thank you for their support of anthropology
- Fienman/Underhill Cultural Collections Committee presentation was successful
- Volunteer Kickoff was a great success
- New Cuban initiative
    - ECP expedition in the autumn
    - In discussions with Sue Hendrickson to investigate shipwrecks off the coast of Cuba

HUMAN RESOURCES

Minutes from September 2000 Kaffeeklatsch Meeting

Marilyn Martinson, Human Resources:

- Asked the committee to think about a new name for the committee, about enlarging the membership, and if there are additional ways the committee can serve the Museum. These questions will be discussed at our October meeting.

Maria Stevens, Development:

- Working on a special event for the 1 millionth visitor to Underground Adventure.
- Also working on a Sue appreciation event for her 2001 birthday.
- Department is looking into a new filing system for their new development space.

Kassandra Astor, Museum Stores

- Thanks the Development and Human Resources office for helping with the lunch tent this summer. Their staff really enjoyed the opportunity to meet and mingle with fellow staff.

Lorraine Petkus, Finance:

- The department just finished a four-week test for online purchase orders. Different staff throughout the Museum participated in the test group and gave good suggestions and feedback.

Carter O'Brien, Geology:

- Suggested that we put dividers in the administrative showers due to the water all over the floor. He volunteered to work with Elisa Aguilar-Kutza in Anthropology to ask the appropriate persons.

Cynthia Gulley, Membership:

- There will be a Kremlin Gold preview for members on October 17, 19, and 29.
- A second Star Wars preview for members will be October 31.

Elisa Aguilar-Kutza, Anthropology:

- Their department would like to know about the disaster plan in the Museum and also what happened to the bicycles left in the shipping dock. She will be contacting Protection Services to find out more details.

Kaffeeklatsch serves as an advisory group to the Administration about issues of a Museum-wide nature. Topics for discussion are generated by the Chair or any Kaffeeklatsch member. Membership is composed of 14 rotating representatives and a representative of the Personnel Committee. Members are selected from each administrative area. Each member serves a term of two years. If you have any suggestions/comments, please submit them in the suggestion box in the Mail Room.

Staff movie nights are happening again!!

The Annual Movie Nights are starting again. Hosted by Human Resources, the first movie will be on Wednesday, October 18, 2000. We invite all staff and volunteers to come eat, drink, and socialize as well as watch an exciting movie. There is ***NO CHARGE*** for the movie and food, but we are asking for a contribution of $2 for beer/wine and $1 for soda.

Food will be served outside of Montgomery Ward Hall(ground floor, West door) from 5 to 6 p.m. Movies will begin around 6 p.m. These nights will be a good way to meet others that you may not normally see during the work day. Don't miss out on a chance to be a part of these fun nights.

PROTECTION SERVICES

That's a big 10-4, good buddy!

The Protection Services department will be conducting a radio training session on Wednesday, October 4, in Classroom A. We encourage all departments whose staff uses museum two-way radios to attend. There will be three sessions: 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Walter Cobb and Fred Cowan of Protection Services will conduct the training. These sessions are to ensure that all staff are using radios properly and to ensure any changes in communication are passed on to all radio users. Existing codes will be reviewed and new codes introduced during this training.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

First CCUC papers published

CCUC is pleased to announce its publication of the first volume in a series of occasional papers, *Perspectives on Civic Activism and City Life.* This series highlights ethnographic field research undertaken by student interns in the Urban Research Initiative, supported by the MacArthur Foundation. The volume will be sent to the libraries in the Fieldiana Anthropology Series exchange, as well as distributed locally to community organizations, urban scholars, and others. Anyone who would like a copy can call Madeleine Tudor at ext. 7471.

Submitted by Alaka Wali

'Round and 'round he goes . . .

Olivier Rieppel (Geology) recently returned from a research trip that allowed him to study fossil reptiles collections around the world. The first station was the South Australian Museum which holds a fossil snake skeleton that had been known since the late 1980's, but that was re-described and characterized as an ancestral snake in a *Nature* paper that appeared last January. Because of this postulated "ancestral position," the specimen is of importance to ongoing debates about the origin of snakes and the evolutionary significance of "snakes with legs".

From there, Olivier continued to Beijing, where he is currently involved in collaborative work targeting the description of early Mesozoic (late Triassic, 230 million years old) marine reptiles from southern China. Olivier was privileged to collaborate on the description of the first (legally collected and acquisitioned) placodont (turtle-like marine reptiles) from China. He was also pleased to see that his Chinese collaborators had followed his advice on how to proceed with the preparation of these fossils.

A very strange looking ichthyosaur was chosen as first priority, and it turned out the Chinese collectors (farmers, not paleontologists) had glued a thalattosaur skull to an ichthyosaur body. So much the better, because thalattosaurs are among the rarest finds in the deposits of the Triassic seas.

Onwards to Stuttgart, Bayreuth and Milano. Olivier was able to continue his collaboration with Dr. Stefania Nosotti from the Natural History Museum of Milano, work that concentrated on the placodonts from the Middle Triassic of Central and southern Europe. Placodonts derive their name from the massive tooth plates that they used to crush hard-shelled invertebrate prey.

A talk Olivier gave on "Fossil snakes with limbs" at the Museum in Bayreuth was rewarded with a T-shirt featuring the famous specimen BT 13—the best preserved and most complete *Placodus* (placodont) skull known. More importantly, an intriguing new specimen, recently collected in northern Italy, promises to shed important new light on the evolutionary origin of this enigmatic group of Mesozoic marine reptiles.

EDUCATION

Americanos Documentary Video and Panel Discussion

Americanos: Latino Life in the United States, an original HBO documentary
Followed by: An Evening With David Carrasco, Mark Hinojosa, and Antonio Pérez
Thursday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m
Complimentary tickets available to staff members
See Mark or Sandra in Education.

Join us as we present a very special screening of the HBO award-winning documentary video *Americanos:Latino Life in the United States* followed by a panel discussion with Dr. David Carrasco, Professor of History of Religions, Princeton University; Mark Hinojosa, photo editor for the **Americanos** exhibition; and Antonio Pérez, photographer for the **Americanos** exhibition. Dr. Carrasco begins the evening with an introduction that addresses the topic of "*Americanos* and the Brown Millennium."

From art and music to politics, education, and religion, the history of Latinos is as rich, diverse and amazing as any group in America. The documentary *Americanos: Latino Life in the United States* celebrates this remarkable heritage, telling the diverse personal stories of Latino-Americans from around the country. Conceived and co-produced by actor and activist Edward James Olmos, and directed by the Oscar-nominated team of Andy Young and Susan Todd, *Americanos: Latino Life in the United States* features personal profiles on Latino-American individuals and the unique ways they express their culture and individuality. Latinos are not one nationality or one culture, but many. This documentary highlights the contributions made by Latinos to our country and city, emphasizing that we are a nation of diverse backgrounds.

Following the screening, Mark Hinojosa and Antonio Pérez will discuss their personal goals with the *Americanos* project and their perceptions of the impact of the project in Chicago. Professor Carrasco will respond by addressing the creative cultural significance of *Americanos,* and how it represents both a social critique and an artistic commitment enabling the new Latino demography to contribute to a new American democracy.

Book signings by Dr. Carrasco, Mr. Hinojosa, and Mr. Pérez will follow the program.

About the Participants

Dr. David Carrasco

David Carrasco is an historian of religions at Princeton University and has a PhD from the University of Chicago. His work on Mesoamerican religions has produced the best-selling *Religions of Mesoamerica: Cosmovision and Ceremonial Centers* and the prize-winning *Quetzocoatl and the Irony of Empire.* His most recent publications include *City of Sacrifice: The Aztec Empire and the Role of Violence in Civilization,* and he is the editor-in-chief of the forthcoming *Oxford Encyclopedia of Mesoamerican Cultures.* He also writes on the religious dimensions of Latino cultures and the meaning of *mestizaje.* He is one of the first Chicano tenured faculty members in the Ivy League and teaches courses at Princeton University on Mesoamerican Religions, Religion and Latin(o)-American Imaginations, and American Indian Religions.

Mark Hinojosa

Mark Hinojosa has been Associate Managing Editor for Electronic News for the *Chicago Tribune* since 1999 and is the former Associate Managing Editor for Photography. Hinojosa helped to develop and maintain a vibrant news-generating department that consistently produces photojournalism that informs and inspires readers. During his tenure, the *Chicago Tribune* received numerous national and international awards for its photography. Hinojosa began his newspaper career in 1979, when he was selected as the first photographer to participate in the Capital Cities Minority training program. Later

that year, he joined the staff of the *Kansas City Star*. In 1987, he joined the staff of *New York Newsday*, where he worked for four years as a staff photographer. Mark Hinojosa served as a photo editor for the *Americanos* project.

Antonio Pérez

Antonio Pérez is a full-time photographer for *¡Exito!*, the Spanish-language publication of the *Chicago Tribune* that focuses on the Latino community. His work at *¡Exito!* has ranged from cover photography to sports to photo essays to hard news, and has taken him on assignments to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico. In addition to *¡Exito!* he has contributed to the *Chicago Tribune* and *Chicago Magazine*, among other publications. He has private collections at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Contemporary Photography. Antonio previously worked on *Changing Chicago/Focus Infinity*, a major documentary project in 1987 and is currently working on *Chicago in the Year 2000*, a photographic documentary project documenting the city and its people in the year 2000. A portion of CITY 2000 can be seen at The Field Museum through December 31, 2000. Antonio's work is featured in the *Americanos: Latino Life in the United States* exhibition.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEER PREVIEWS FOR...

The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition

And

Kachinas: Gifts from the Spirit Messengers

October 3, 2000

3:00pm - 3:30pm ~ Kachinas Speaker

3:30pm - 4:30pm ~ Preview Exhibits

Located in the Meso-America hall on the Main Level

We invite all staff and volunteers to come see two of our newest temporary exhibits at the Museum. You can listen, look, mingle, and have a snack!

The Endurance exhibit brings to life the epic story of Sir Ernest Shackleton's 1914 Endurance expedition, one of the greatest tales of survival in expedition history. Visitors also confront the towering waves and strong winds that Shackleton and his rescue team faced, and through an interactive sextant, are invited to experience the difficulty of open-boat navigation.

Kachinas exhibit explores a familiar, yet fascinating, Native American art form. Created by the Hopi people of North Eastern Arizona, colorful, carved wooden kachinas represent spirit messengers (called katsinam) who act as intermediaries between the Hopi world and the supernatural realm.

OCTOBER SOLDIER FIELD PARKING UPDATES

- **CHICAGO FIRE SOCCER GAMES-** By visiting http://intranet1:100/parking you will find the posted soccer game dates or you can visit http://intranet1/departments/public_services/default.html
- **MCCORMICK PLACE EVENTS**- There are no significant staff and visitor parking concerns for the following conferences that will take place in October :
  - National Black MBA Association- October 5-6 Expected Attendance 2,000
  - NEX Expo- October 6-7 Expected Attendance 12,000
  - Motivation Show- October 10-12 Expected Attendance 20,000
  - Am. Dental Association- October 14-17 Expected Attendance 30,000
  - International Coatings Expo- October 18-20 Expected Attendance 10,000
  - Health & Fitness Expo- October 20-21
  - American College of Surgeons Congress- October 22-26 Expected Attendance 19,000
  - Job Fair- October 24
  - Academy of Pediatrics Convention- October 28-30 Expected Attendance 10,000
- **GRANT PARK/LAKEFRONT EVENTS – Expect street closures and traffic congestions** for the following events that will take place in October :
  - Memory Walk- October 1 8am-12pm (Randolph & Lakefront) Expected Attendance 1,000
  - Am. Liver Foundation Walk October 8 6am-12pm (Arvey Field) Expected Attendance 700
  - Am. Walk for Diabetes- October 8 (North Ave& Addison) Expected Attendance 2,000
  - 2nd Annual Great Walk- October 14 (Monroe & LSD) Expected Attendance 500
  - Making Strides Against Breast Cancer- October 15 (Arvey Field) Expected Attendance 3,000
- **FIELD MUSEUM EVENTS-** By visiting http://intranet1:100/fmevents, you will find the posted events being held at the Field Museum. Parking information for some of these events is posted in the Soldier Field Parking Calendar.
  - Kremlin Gold Opens on October 21
- **SOLDIER FIELD PARKING CALENDAR**- The calendar at http://intranet1:100/parking gives you important information about parking changes during events in or near the Museum Campus area.
  - Bears Game on October 8, will require staff to park at the Adler lots. Parking Fee is $15.
  - Bears Game and U.S. Open Cup Final on October 15th and 21st- staff to park at the Adler lot. Monthly passes will be accepted. Event rate will go into effect by 3pm.
- **NAVY PIER**- There are no significant staff and visitor parking concerns for the following conferences that will take place in October :
  - Promo Expo- October 3-5 Expected Attendance 1,000
  - Inform Services Conference & Expo- October 19-21 Expected Attendance 4,000
  - Geriatric Conference & Expo- October 26-28 Expected Attendance 1,5000
- **PARADES-Expect street closures and traffic congestions** for the following events that will take place in October :
  - Columbus Day Parade- October 9 at 1pm
  - Halloween Happenings- October 21

If you have any questions regarding parking, please call the Public Services Office at extension 7911.